

Murray State University Special Initiative

2+2 Middle School Math & Science Teacher Preparation Program

What is the 2+2 Middle School Math and Science Teacher Preparation Program?

This program will support Murray State University's efforts to increase the number of certified teachers in critical shortage areas such as middle school math and science by enhancing 2+2 baccalaureate program offerings in Henderson, Hopkinsville, Madisonville, and Paducah. Program funding will be used to hire full-time assistant professors to teach math and science portions of program curricula.

Why is a program like this needed?

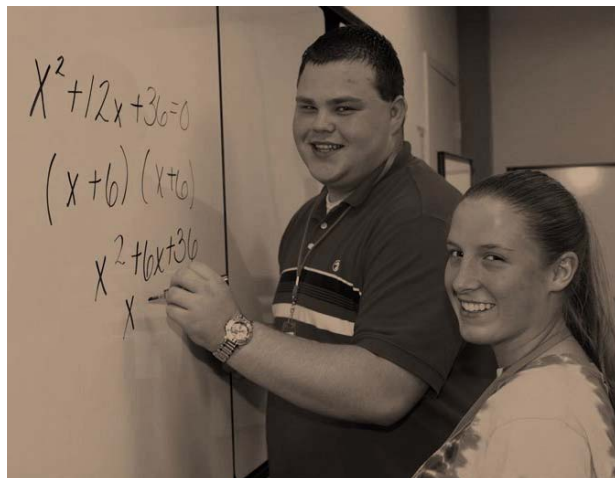
There is a critical shortage of middle school math and science teachers in Kentucky. This initiative will assist Kentucky's public schools address these critical shortage areas by making the middle school math and science certification program more accessible. Also, it will afford nontraditional students the opportunity to complete baccalaureate degrees in their local communities and will enhance collaboration between the university, the public schools, and the community college in the region.

Are 2+2 programs a successful strategy for increasing educational attainment?

Murray State established a 2+2 baccalaureate program in elementary education at each of its four regional campuses in 1999 and established a special education LBD baccalaureate program in 2000. Both programs have been extremely successful as a result of cooperation among the concerned entities: Murray State University, the local community college, local public schools, and the local community. Many students who would have been previously unable to earn a four-year degree have completed one of the programs and have been hired by surrounding school systems. The proposed middle school math and science program would build on these existing models.

What is the Council's request?

The Council seeks \$200,000 of recurring funds in FY 2007-08 to support the 2+2 Middle School Math and Science Teacher Preparation Program and provide Murray State University an opportunity to advance postsecondary education beyond its current capacity.



One Mission: Better Lives for Kentucky's People